

from the Examiner that claim 26 is allowed.

The sole remaining issue is the rejection of claims 17, 18 and 21-25 under 35 USC § 103(a) as being obvious over Kristiansen, Shiokawa, Elbert and the Derwent Abstract of JP 3 279 389, and European Patent 0 285 985. In response, Applicants have conducted further comparison tests, and the results thereof are attached. The data clearly show that dermal treatment in accordance with the teachings of the present invention provides an unexpectedly long term protection against fleas and lice—a much longer treatment, in fact, than can be achieved by oral treatment using the same compounds. There is absolutely nothing in the cited prior art to suggest these results. Accordingly, these data must be regarded as completely surprising, and, therefore, unexpected, and, thus, objective evidence of nonobviousness. Although these data are not in declaration form, a suitable declaration can be provided if the Examiner requires it.

Further, Applicants submit that the data are reasonably commensurate in scope with the claims. Applicants have demonstrated that a relatively large number of compounds having the same general structure as the present compounds all exhibit the beneficial properties discussed above. A couple of the compounds tested, namely Compound A and Compound I fall within the present claims. These facts together provide reasonable assurance that all of the compounds within the present claims should show the same beneficial properties.

In short, Applicants submit that the Examiner would be fully justified to

reconsider and withdraw this rejection. An early notice that this rejection has been reconsidered and withdrawn is, therefore, earnestly solicited.

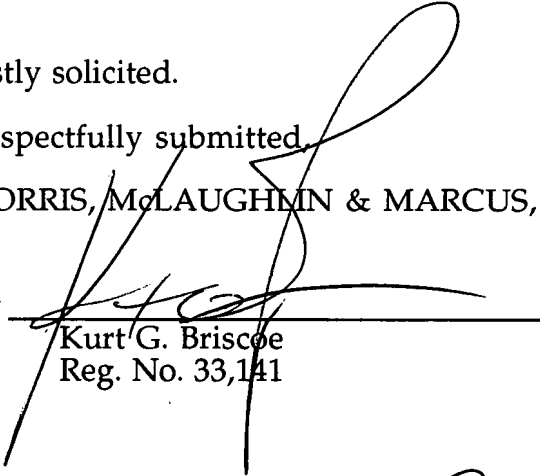
Applicants believe the foregoing constitutes a full and complete response to all outstanding objections and rejections.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

  
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on the date indicated below:

Date February 14, 2000

By

  
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